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## WAR NEWS.

The reported battle on the Blackwater river was an attack of Federal cavalry and artillery on the Confederate entrenchments opposite Franklin. The movement was not successful; two cavalry charges were made, but such was the heavy fire of the Confederate infantry behind the breastworks that the Federal forces were compelled to retire. The casualties on the Federal side were seventeen wounded, among them two officers. Ten Confederates were taken prisoners.

A press dispatch reports that the Yazoo expedition received a check at the confluence of the Tallahatchie and the Yallabusa rivers by a Confederate battery of five guns. The fight occurred on Friday last, and lasted all day, the gunboat Chillicothe, the largest of the fleet, receiving sixty-four shots and had most of her ammunition expended. On this account the action was not resumed on Saturday. The fleet consists of the Chillicothe, DeKalb, five small gunboats of the mosquito fleet and eighteen transports. The fleet, at last accounts, was three miles above the junction of the Tallahatchie and Yallabusa rivers, two hundred miles from Helena, and one hundred and fifty from Yazoo city.

Southern papers report that Helena, Arkansas, was attacked on Monday, the 9th inst.—A dispatch from Chattanooga states that a battle is imminent in the vicinity of Tallahoma.—The bridges on the East Tennessee railroad, recently destroyed by a Federal cavalry raid, have been rebuilt. A Raleigh dispatch reports some skirmishing near Newbern.

A Hilton Head letter of the 14th states that a small party of Confederates made a raid on Hilton Head Island, and taking advantage of the remissness of some guards, had captured nine Federal troops, including several attached to a signal corps.

We have further particulars of the cavalry fight on the Rappahannock. The Federal loss is stated at forty killed and wounded, whilst that of the Confederates is variously estimated at from one to two hundred.

A dispatch from the Vicksburg fleet states that the Lake Providence Canal is completed, and that water will be let in next week. The Confederate ram Webb is lying at Vicksburg, supposed to be in a sinking condition.

The Boston Journal publishes an extract from a private letter just received in that city from Vera Cruz, which more than confirms the previous reports of the disasters sustained by the French since their invasion.

Sergeant McClintock, of Company G. 28th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and his head nurse, Isaac R. Snyder, of Company H. 5th Ohio, have run off with a considerable amount of money, belonging to soldiers at Harper's Ferry, which had been entrusted to them.

W. H. Tiernan, a well known lawyer in Baltimore, died on Wednesday.

## PLANTATION LABORERS IN LOUISIANA.—

The New Orleans correspondent of the New York Evening Post speaks in favorable terms of the arrangement recently made by Gen. Banks for the employment of slaves on the plantations, under the direction and superintendence of their respective owners, and anticipates from it good and lucrative crops of the leading staples. Here is what he says:—"Inquiry among those connected with the planting interest convinces me that the arrangement entered into between Gen. Banks, in behalf of the Government, and the negroes on one side, and the planters on the other really works tolerably well. A great many planters were dissatisfied with the results of their convention and conferences with the commanding General, but they were unwilling to make allowances in conformity with the state of affairs here, and many insisted on legal rights they had themselves, by direct acts against the Government, rendered impossible. But they have commenced work, proposing to make the best of circumstances, and they are succeeding. In the parish of Assumption are not more than ten plantations that are not worked under the contract agreed on by Gen. Banks and the convention. The provost marshals generally take care to inform the negroes that the Government will not support them in idleness; that they must work either for the United States or their masters; and thereupon a large proportion return voluntarily to their homes, to work for wages and to work well. The plantations suffer about as much, and often more for lack of mules than from want of negroes. The Government has taken up a great number of these animals for its own use, and the usual sources, Kentucky and Tennessee, are cut off by that as yet impassable barrier, the war. Both because less labor is required, and the crops bid fair to be unusually lucrative, cotton and tobacco will be largely cultivated this year in the sugar-growing districts."

In New York on Monday a woman named Neil, a native of Ireland, somehow or other got it into her head that her only child was a "changeling," that is, that it had been changed while in its cradle, by the fairies. The only way in which to find out the truth, according to a superstition, was to burn the child with a piece of red hot iron, when, if a changeling, it would fly away. She obtained a shovel, and heating it to white heat, sat the poor little innocent upon it, burning it so severely that it died during the night. The mother was arrested. She is thought to be insane.

The officers of the 30th New York Regiment in a body, after having first consulted with the men, have signified the willingness of the regiment to re-enlist for the war, provided it can be sent home about the first of April—one month before the expiration of its present term of service—to recruit to the maximum number.

General Roberts, in command of the defences of the Upper Potomac, has issued very stringent orders regulating the trade between Maryland and Virginia. He has also ordered that all civilians, resident within the fortifications and defences of Harper's Ferry, shall take the oath of allegiance or be sent without the lines.

A court-martial has assembled in Washington for the trial of Col. D'Utassy, of New York Volunteers, under charges of peculation, fraud etc.

## Department of the Cumberland.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 19.—Sutlers' wagons were attacked by guerillas on the Murfreesboro' pike to-day, six miles from Nashville, and the drivers and horses captured, and the wagons burned. The army has not yet moved forward, but is occupying its old quarters at Murfreesboro. The river is falling rapidly.

LOUISVILLE, March 19.—The train leaving here this morning is reported captured at Woodburn with General Bramon aboard.—Severe fighting is said to have occurred. Further particulars are unattainable to-night.

BOSTON BOOT AND SHOE MARKET.—We have still to record a very good trade for the season. The orders of the manufacturers extend well into this month, and stocks do not increase, although every nerve is strained to get out goods. New York and Philadelphia orders are quite large, and the jobbing trade in those cities is represented as quite brisk.—There are not a large number of Western buyers here, but orders from that section are daily being received, which cannot be readily filled, and it is understood that shoes are scarce, and sell quick in all the loyal Western and South-western States. The rates of stock are constantly advancing, it being understood that leather is not in large supply, and still higher prices for shoes are expected. The call for the New England States and the provinces is increasing, and army work under late contracts is rather brisk.

The total shipments of boots and shoes by rail and sea for the past week have been 14,797 cases.—*Shoe and Leather Reporter.*

Col. Fish, yesterday detailed a lieutenant of the 150th New York regiment, with eighteen men, who will to-day proceed to Westminster, Carroll county, Md., for the purpose of acting as Provost Marshal and guard at that point, with a view of arresting deserters, looking out for any expression of treasonable sentiments, and making such arrests and enforcing such orders as may be deemed necessary.

Numerous petitions have been presented to the Pennsylvania Legislature during the present session in favor of a National Convention to adjust present difficulties. The Democratic members of the Senate and House held a caucus, and last night agreed upon resolutions to be presented on the subject to the Senate by Hon. Mr. Lamberton, and to the House by Mr. Pershing, Chairman of the Committee on Federal Relations. The House, being Democratic, will probably pass them, but as the Senate is Republican they will not reach the Governor.

Five Confederate steamers recently left the harbor of Mobile with the design of attacking the blockading squadron off that port; but one of the vessels being injured by striking a snag, the contemplated assault was abandoned, to be renewed, it is said, as soon as the other steamers are ready.

Jack Cross, in Washington, continues his travels up and down the sixteen feet plank and does not yet appear to be much the worse for wear. He is in excellent spirits and feels confident of success.